



Data Brief:

Rape and Sexual Assault in Massachusetts, 2015-2016

Services Provided by Rape Crisis Centers

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

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Sexual assault is a serious social and public health problem in Massachusetts. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016, 1,895 unduplicated incidents of sexual assault were reported to Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH)-funded Rape Crisis Centers (RCCs), including the statewide Spanish-language hotline. Of these, 1,361 incidents were reported by survivors themselves and an additional 504 were reported by partners, family members, friends, and professionals. In Massachusetts, in 2015, an estimated 15.7% of women and 5.3% of men reported ever experiencing sexual assault[†] in their lifetimes¹.

To respond to the needs of survivors of sexual violence, at least four types of services were provided by community-based RCCs funded through the MDPH Sexual Assault Prevention and Survivor Services (SAPSS) program: 24-hour hotlines, prevention education and professional training, individual and group counseling, and client accompaniment. To carry out these activities, MDPH contracted with 16 locally-based RCCs across Massachusetts (some with multiple sites). Jane Doe Inc., the state sexual assault and domestic violence prevention coalition, also provides MDPH-funded educational and professional training activities. This document summarizes services delivered over a one-year time period, from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

24-Hour Hotline Services²

Hotline services were provided 24/7 by each local RCC, one of which also offers a statewide Spanish-language hotline number. The dedicated statewide Spanish-language hotline received 862 calls during FY2016. Callers to the hotlines included sexual assault survivors, their significant others (i.e., partners, family members, and friends), and professionals (e.g., physicians, teachers, therapists). Support and resource referral services were provided on an as-needed basis to these individuals. Because callers may use the hotlines repeatedly and anonymously, the number of calls to the hotlines is a measure of service use, not sexual assault incidents reported to MDPH-funded RCCs or the number of individuals using the hotlines.

24-Hour Sexual Assault Hotline: Number of Calls by Relationship of Caller to a Survivor		
Survivor Calls	Other Hotline Calls	Total Calls
9,248	4,590	13,838

NOTE: Federal Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) funds supported 20% of the total hotline call responses in FY16. Each hotline is required to have access to telephonic interpretation services and TTY/Relay access.

Educational & Professional Training Activities

Community educational and professional training activities were offered through each RCC and Jane Doe Inc. Education was provided for two main audiences: (1) non-professional populations such as students, civic organizations, and faith-based groups, and; (2) professional audiences such as health care providers, police, and teachers. The statewide coalition, Jane Doe Inc., provided many types of educational services; Jane Doe Inc. counts presented below reflect only their major conferences and statewide training sessions funded by MDPH.

[†] Lifetime sexual assault is defined as ever having experienced rape, attempted rape, or physical sexual assault. This is not the definition used prior to FY2006. Pre-FY2006 statistics, therefore, may not be comparable.

¹ Commonwealth of Massachusetts. A Profile of Health Among Massachusetts Adults, 2015: Results from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Boston, Massachusetts: Health Survey Program, Office of Data Management and Outcomes Assessment, Department of Public Health.

Educational and Professional Training Activities by Source and Type						
	Community Education		Professional Training		Total	
	Sessions	Persons	Sessions	Persons	Sessions	Persons
RCCs	556	16,475	159	2805	715	19,280
Jane Doe Inc.	0	0	1	17	1	17
Total	556	16,475	160	2,822	716	19,297

NOTE: FY2016 Educational and Professional Training numbers are not comparable to counts from fiscal years 2011 and earlier due to a change in the rules for reporting activities that consist of multiple sessions.

Counseling and Client Accompaniment Services

Individual counseling and client accompaniment services provided by each local RCC included: short-term individual counseling, medical (including support during forensic evidence collection exams), legal, and police accompaniment, assistance accessing social services, and advocating for a client when the client is not actually present (collateral service sessions/time). Group counseling sessions provided by many of the RCCs offered essential opportunities for individuals to support one another through the healing process.

Total Individual Counseling, Client Accompaniment, and Collateral Service Sessions²	16,273
Total Individual Counseling and Accompaniment Sessions	15,378
Total Collateral Time-Only Sessions	895
Total Unduplicated Counseling, Client Accompaniment, and Collateral Service Clients Served^{2,3}	3,418
Individual Counseling Clients	1,990
Medical Accompaniment Clients ⁴	1,072
Legal Accompaniment Clients ³	496
<i>258E Restraining Order Clients</i>	55
<i>Other Civil Legal Matter Clients</i>	291
<i>Criminal Legal Matter Clients</i>	238
Police Accompaniment Clients	68
Housing Accompaniment Clients	165
Financial Accompaniment Clients	214
School Accompaniment Clients	8
(Post-Secondary) School Accompaniment Clients	41
Other Accompaniment Clients	63
Collateral Service and Collateral Hours Clients ⁵	1,436
Group Counseling Sessions Conducted	912

NOTE: Federal SASP funds supported sessions for approximately 7% of the clients served by RCCs in FY16.

For more information about sexual assault services and a list of MDPH-funded rape crisis centers, please see the Sexual Assault Prevention and Survivor Services website at: <http://www.mass.gov/dph/sexualassaultservices>. For more information about the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program (SANE), please go to <http://www.mass.gov/dph/sane>. If you need help, please contact your local rape crisis center.

²Due to changes in data coding, these numbers are not comparable to those reported for years prior to FY2007.

³Numbers of individual clients by service type will add up to more than the total, unduplicated count because some clients received multiple service types from the same RCC.

⁴These 1,072 clients were served in a total of 1,203 sessions during FY2016 (some clients received more than one medical accompaniment session). A subset of these clients (1,022) received medical accompanied services in a hospital setting. Hospital medical accompaniments constituted 1,051 of the total 1,203 medical accompaniment sessions.

⁵ The FY2007 version of this number was computed differently and so is not comparable to this FY2016 count.

